

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Education Committee  
April 01, 2016

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[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Education met at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 1, 2016, in Room 1525 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on a gubernatorial appointment. Senators present: Kate Sullivan, Chairperson; Roy Baker; Bob Krist; Patty Pansing Brooks; and David Schnoor. Senators absent: Rick Kolowski, Vice Chairperson; Mike Groene; Adam Morfeld.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Good morning, Ms. May.

LISA MAY: Good morning. How are you?

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Fine, thank you. Thank you so much for calling in. I am Senator Kate Sullivan, I'm Chair of the Education Committee. We have not all of the members of the committee here, but I will have those who are present introduce themselves, so you'll know who you're talking to. Okay?

LISA MAY: That sounds fine.

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Good morning, Lisa. I'm Senator Dave Schnoor, I represent District 15, which is in Dodge County.

LISA MAY: Good morning. How are you?

SENATOR SCHNOOR: I'm doing just great.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Roy Baker from District 30, which is Gage County and part of southern Lancaster County.

LISA MAY: Good morning. How are you, sir?

SENATOR BAKER: Good, thank you.

SENATOR KRIST: Good morning. Bob Krist, I represent District 10 in Omaha and also Bennington. How are you?

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LISA MAY: I'm doing great.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: So Ms. May, I understand this will be a new appointment for you, is that correct, to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission?  
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: (Exhibit 1) Yes, yes it is. It's the first appointment, and I have to say I was very surprised and honored when I got the call. I thought it would be totally something else and when I checked the voice mail and heard it, I was like oh my goodness, a new adventure.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Well, and so tell us if you will a little bit about why you would like to serve in this position. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Oh, certainly. Well, I was very intrigued by the commission and I had applied about a little over a year ago, and did not get the position then, which was fine, that was not in the plans for that time. And I looked very forward to it because I have a degree in speech communication from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with emphasis in English and psychology. And I think one of the greatest gifts you can give anybody is excellent communication skills and the ability to have access to knowledge of all sorts. And with those two things in mind, if you have those good types of skills you can just achieve anything. And so I was very intrigued and very interested in serving on this commission for that reason.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: So what do you think you can bring to the table, in terms of your role on the commission? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Well, I think I bring a unique blend of information and experience. I grew up in North Dakota back in the 1970s and 1980s, when we had black and white TV, no remote control, and two channels. And if you got a third channel, that would be the one hot day in June when the wind was from the right direction, and so you were living large that day. And nowadays, we have such wonderful technology and access to different programs and ways of communicating which are instantaneous versus months to get a letter to someone or get in touch with someone. I bring that what it was like and what it is, what we have now, kind of blending those two areas. And I have teenagers, I'm going to be the first to admit I go to them for help on some stuff, they're my tech people. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR SULLIVAN: I noticed on your resume that you have...you're a daycare provider. Is that correct? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: That is correct, for 18 years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: So do you think that educational television...does it play a role in the care that you give your children? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Oh, yes, definitely. That is one of the greatest assets is I get to work everyday from the very start of when children start to learn and start to talk. And learning the correct way of speaking and writing and just having the ability to learn from learning on experience is so important. And so that is...and I get to see the whole gamut of what's out there--from a to z and back again. And so it is not exactly the job I would have seen me doing, but it has provided me great opportunity. Like I was always home when my children were home from school, when they were sick, I took them to school, I picked them up from school, and that is a big plus. Prior to being in daycare and moving to Kearney, I worked at the Gallup Organization in their consumer division for five years and was one of the top 100 worldwide employees in that company. So I have a lot of experience on dealing with people and communication and finding out information and disseminating that information as well to others. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Very good. I will now see if any of the other senators have some questions for you. Senators? Senator Krist. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Where is South Heart, North Dakota? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: South Heart, North Dakota is six miles west of Dickinson, North Dakota, in the southwest corner, which is about 100 miles west of Bismarck. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Yeah, I fly for the Corps of Engineers. I'm up there a bunch and that Dickinson area is kind of tough to find a hotel room in these days. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Yes, very much so. It is a booming area and it has been just unbelievable in the last five years. My mom, after my father passed away, she moved down here about three, four years ago, and she says I wouldn't even know going back there the differences what it was when I grew up to what it is now. You know, you might see a car on the highway three or four times, you know, an hour and now it's just unbelievable traffic. And they got a brand new Menards and they got a brand new hospital, and stuff that was just open land is just filled with buildings. So it's been an interesting experience. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR KRIST: It's amazing what a little oil will do for the economy. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Yes, yes, it is. And what's interesting as well is my cousin is chief of police and my other cousin is the head of the SWAT team up there. So it's interesting always what comes with good there's always a little element of not so good that makes it interesting as well.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you so much. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: You're welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Any other questions? Senator Pansing Brooks from Lincoln has joined us and I believe she has a question. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Oh, wonderful. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: Yes, thank you for talking with us today, Ms. May.  
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Oh, you're very welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: I'm interested in your view of public television and what you feel about...I know that you spoke a little bit with Senator Sullivan's question, but I'd be interested in your position on public television and its value to our nation and state.  
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: I think it's absolutely a fabulous network to have. I think because there's a lot of people in rural communities, where unless you have satellite, and that's not even always guaranteed to work because cellphones don't work in some of those areas, just from travelling through them, of having a way to reach out to the world so to speak. And there's so many wonderful programs on there, just that I grew up with, information that if there was no other means of having that information that whole generation would be lost on learning because they might not be interested in it. You know, Antique Road Show is one of them, or gosh...I can't think of the gentleman's name, but we used to watch him every Saturday and he'd make a painting. And we watched him every Saturday, my mom and me. And so not only does it provide you information, it provides you...maybe it's just the experience where that's the time you have with your parent or a great memory for years on or something to hold onto. And we watch a lot of public television, just a lot of it. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: I do, too, that guy was famous for his magic white.  
[CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Yes, yes. And he had the little afro thing kind of going on, the poofy hair. I never seen anybody who could paint a picture so fast. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: Yeah, that was pretty amazing. Okay, well, I guess I'm also interested, I know that there's been a little bit of push sometimes to limit the ability of public television to broadcast a wide variety and a diverse range of shows. Could you speak just a bit to that? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Well, I'm not as familiar currently at where the push is to why not or why they should have limitations. And my first question is why do they want to limit the number of shows? I really don't see any other network doing that, and as far as public television and the amount of shows, I think that's one of the best opportunities public has. And they're more interesting than the scripted reality, which is a lot of those shows now to me are scripted reality, which in all reality is fantasy. Because I am not a big fan of reality shows, but if you want to have a reality show, let's have a real reality show, not something that's scripted and kind of a made up perception of what life is really going to be. Because when you get out in the real world, what you plan to do, what you actually do, and what you want to do are all three separate things, and lots of times you end up doing what you have to do. And so that...I think that there should be as much diversity on public programming as possible. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: Well, I would agree with you, and I appreciate that. And I do think that we get amazing shows of true value on public television. And even when our local networks have to do fund-raisers, we get incredible concerts...and of course my mom lived with us the last 10 years of her life and she loved Antiques Roadshow. So you are speaking to the choir. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Yes. Well, that and Austin City Limits, what more do you need?  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: Well, thank you. That's all I have, thank you very much, Ms. May. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Thank you for your time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Senator Schnoor. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR SCHNOOR: I...Lisa, I'm just curious, if you could explain your travels. What brought you from...you were born in Staten Island, then North Dakota, and now to Nebraska. So could you explain that? [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Sounds like an interesting little adventure, doesn't it? My mom and dad were both from North Dakota native, and I was born in Staten Island because my dad was in the Merchant Marine. And he would go to the Merchant Marine after he would be done harvesting and there for the winter, then he'd go back to North Dakota and help farm. Then after he got done with the Merchant Marine...he did that after he was in the Navy for 10 years, they decided to settle in North Dakota. And I came to Nebraska to go to Union College my freshman year, and so I went to college there and then I did a semester of college in California, and then I came back and went to University of Nebraska. And I came here in August of 1983 and have pretty much been here for the last 34 years. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Okay, thank you. I was just kind of curious. You've been throughout, you know, at least half of the United States. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Well, I did the little test one time of how many states have you visited, and I think I only had three left that I hadn't been to. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Okay, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Ms. May, it doesn't appear that there are any more questions, so thank you very much. I appreciate you calling in, and thank you for your willingness to serve. [CONFIRMATION]

LISA MAY: Thank you very much for your time, and I hope all of you have a wonderful weekend. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you. Thank you, Chuck. We should probably... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: I move that we appoint her. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Okay, do I hear a second? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Second. [CONFIRMATION]